

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0265

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS,. FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: MAY 18 WESTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

THE 169TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS,
THE FIRST OF THE FIFTEENTH ROUND, WAS HELD ON MAY 18,
UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF ACTING CANADIAN REP (PUDDINGTON).
LUXEMBOURG REP (WINTER) AND GDR REP (OESTER) DELIVERED
THE ONLY STATEMENTS. GDR REP'S PRESENTATION IS REPORTED
BY SEPTEL. IN HIS STATEMENT, WINTER SUMMARIZED THE
STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND REVIEWED THE PRINCIPAL
ELEMENTS OF THE WESTERN INITIATIVE PRESENTED ON
APRIL 19. THE MAIN POINTS OF THE LUXEMBOURG STATEMENT,
THE FULL TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM WERE:

1) THE WEST WISHES TO REAFFIRM THE IMPORTANCE IT ATTACHES
TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT.

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2) AFTER ALMOST FIVE YEARS, PARTICIPANTS HAVE NOT
ACHIEVED AN AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD REALIZE THE AGREED
OBJECTIVES OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS WHOSE ATTAINMENT IS
NECESSARY IF DETENTE IS TO HAVE A SOLID FOUNDATION.

3) THE NEW WESTERN INITIATIVE HAS ESTABLISHED THE
BASIS FOR A FIRST AGREEMENT AND THE WEST LOOKS FORWARD TO
RECEIVING A CONSTRUCTIVE EASTERN RESPONSE TO THAT INITIATIVE.

- 4) THE NEW WESTERN INITIATIVE TAKES INTO ACCOUNT TWO IMPORTANT EASTERN INTERESTS: IT PROVIDES FIRM GUARANTEES IN PHASE I REGARDING THE AMOUNT AND TIMING OF PHASE II REDUCTIONS BY NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AND IT SIGNIFICANTLY DECREASES REQUIREMENTS TO BE LEVIED ON THE USSR IN A FIRST PHASE.
- 5) THE WEST LOOKS FORWARD TO CONTINUING THE DATA DISCUSSION SINCE THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN FIGURES FOR WARSAW PACT MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE REDUCTION AREA MUST BE RESOLVED IF THERE IS TO BE AN AGREEMENT ON REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS.
- 6) WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION, PARLIAMENTS AND GOVERNMENTS COULD NOT ACCEPT AN OUTCOME WHICH IGNORED THE KNOWN DIFFERENCES OVER MILITARY MANPOWER DATA.
- 7) THE WESTERN INITIATIVE HAS OPENED THE WAY TO A FIRST AGREEMENT ON REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS, ONCE THE DATA ISSUE IS RESOLVED.
- 8) SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD COMMIT PARTICIPANTS TO:
 - A) AN OUTCOME OF GENUINE PARITY; B) FIRST PHASE REDUCTIONS LIMITED TO US AND SOVIET FORCES, AND C) THE AMOUNT AND TIMING OF PHASE II REDUCTIONS BY THE NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AND THE NON-SOVIET EASTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AS WELL AS BY THE US AND USSR.
- 9) THE COMMITMENT BY NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE AN OVERALL ONE, CONSISTENT WITH COLLECTIVE CEILINGS.
- 10) ARMAMENTS REDUCTIONS WOULD BE AS PROPOSED BY THE WEST IN CONFIDENTIAL

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DECEMBER 1975 AND AS MODIFIED BY THE WEST'S APRIL 1978 PROPOSALS.

- 11) ASSOCIATED MEASURES WOULD ALSO BE CONTAINED IN A PHASE I AGREEMENT.
 - 12) THE MODALITIES OF PHASE II REDUCTIONS WOULD BE DETERMINED IN PHASE II NEGOTIATIONS.
 - 13) THE OPPORTUNITY FOR REACHING A FIRST PHASE AGREEMENT ALSO CREATES THE OPPORTUNITY TO REACH AN AGREEMENT NOT TO INCREASE MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA BETWEEN PHASES.
 - 14) THE OUTCOME PROPOSED BY THE WEST WOULD NOT, CONTRARY TO EASTERN ALLEGATIONS, BE AN ASYMMETRICAL ONE.
 - 15) AN ANALYSIS WHICH TAKES ALL FACTORS, ESPECIALLY GEOGRAPHY, INTO ACCOUNT MAKES CLEAR THAT THE BURDEN OF COMMITMENTS THE WEST IS PROPOSING FOR ITSELF IS AT LEAST AS WEIGHTY AS THE BURDEN IT IS ASKING OF THE EAST.
 - 16) THE PRESENT ROUND CONTAINS GREATER POSSIBILITIES FOR PROGRESS THAN IN THE PAST.
 - 17) PARTICIPANTS MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE POSSIBILITIES AND MOVE THE TALKS DECISIVELY TOWARD ACHIEVEMENT OF A FIRST AGREEMENT.
- RESOR

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